

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To be given to all patients 16 years of age and older

Conditional Voluntary Hospitalization
M.G.L. Chapter 123, Sections 10 & 11

You have the right to consult with an attorney or paralegal concerning the legal effect of conditional voluntary hospitalization before you sign an Application For Care And Treatment On A Conditional Voluntary Basis. You may consult your own attorney. Alternatively, you may consult with someone at the

_____ by calling _____
local legal assistance office phone number
during regular working hours, or you may consult with the facility's Human Rights Officer by calling extension _____ during regular working hours.

Once you sign the application for conditional voluntary hospitalization and your application has been accepted by the facility, you must sign a three-day notice if you decide to leave the facility. You can request help with this notice from facility staff. You may not be permitted to leave the facility until three days (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays) after you sign and submit the notice.

During the three days after you submit your notice, the facility may decide that your release would create a likelihood of serious harm to yourself or to others by reason of your mental illness. If so, the Superintendent or other head of the facility may file a petition for your civil commitment to the facility for a period of up to six months. If a petition is filed, the District Court will begin the hearing within five (5) business days, not including Saturday, Sunday and holidays. You will have to remain in the facility until the hearing is completed unless the facility decides to discharge you before the hearing is completed. You will be represented by an attorney at the hearing.

Alternatively, the facility may decide, after reviewing your situation, to seek a Probate Court guardianship with authority to consent to your admission to the facility.

However, if a civil commitment petition is not filed or if a Probate Court order is not issued, you will be discharged no later than the end of the third day after you file your three-day notice (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays).